

Climate Impacts Awards: Unlocking urgent climate action by making the health effects of climate change visible

The aim of this scheme is to make the impacts of climate change on physical and mental health visible to drive urgent climate policy action at scale. We will fund transdisciplinary teams to deliver short-term, high-impact projects that maximise policy outcomes by combining evidence generation, policy analysis, engaged research approaches and communication strategies.



On this page



Scheme at a glance

Career stage: Mid-career researcher, Established researcher

Where your administering organisation is based: Anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China)

Level of funding: Up to £2.5 million

Duration of funding: Up to 3 years

Next deadline

Next deadline

Full application deadline: 3 April 2024

About this scheme

In 2023, Wellcome launched the Climate Impacts Awards and funded 11 innovative global projects.

In 2024, we will fund projects that generate context-specific evidence using community knowledge and experiences to deliver actionable policy outcomes that can be scaled to multiple settings. We will prioritise funding for research that involves and serves the needs of communities most impacted by the health effects of climate change, and advances stories and narratives that tend to be absent in the media or underrepresented in public discourse (Perga et al, 2023). This will include generating and/or synthesising relevant data and insights (preferably across multiple sites or countries) on significant health issues arising from climate impacts.

We are looking for proposals with a clear theory of change and strong understanding of policy levers. Policy outcomes should be achievable within the award period, innovative in their design and should support meaningful and sustainable change. Proposals should describe the intended policy outcomes and how new insights and effective communication will influence these outcomes.

Teams must have prior demonstrable success in work that combines science, policy and society (Serrao-Neumann, et al 2021). We use the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definition of transdisciplinary research. Transdisciplinary research combines knowledge from different scientific disciplines, citizens, public and private sector stakeholders to address complex societal challenges. By engaging key stakeholders from the outset and embedding different expertise in the research design, we expect that teams will use evidence and impactful narratives on the effects of climate change on health to drive urgent policy change that supports collaborative solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

This scheme aims to make the impacts of climate change on health visible. There are many reasons the impacts of climate change could be invisible.

- **ideology:** political polarisation results in missing voices, disinformation or lack of information
- **unseen:** some of the climate impacts of environmental drivers of health outcomes (for example, certain chemicals, pollutants or microscopic organisms) may not be visible and therefore may be ignored
- **linkage:** the links between climate change and health effects not being explicitly made or understood
- **low priority:** climate change's effects on health are not given much focus due to competing priorities, unconvincing analyses and communications challenges.

Motivation for this scheme

+

Proposals that this funding will support

+

Eligibility and suitability

Who can apply, who can't apply, what's expected of your organisation

x

About you

You can apply for this award if you are a team leader who wants to advance transdisciplinary research on the impacts of climate change on health.

As the lead applicant, you will be expected to:

- have experience leading transdisciplinary teams and working in the science-policy-society interface
- have prior experience of research engaging with policy partners
- have knowledge brokering skills such as the ability to bring together research teams and impacted communities

social sciences as well as technology) but must be transdisciplinary (using the OECD definition) and include expertise in policy, public engagement and communications. In addition to strong health expertise, we are particularly interested in teams that can demonstrate strong climate expertise.

During your award we expect you to:

- fill an important evidence gap where the data and insights generation and/or synthesis could help drive urgent action
- work across a transdisciplinary team involving researchers, policymakers, communicators, and other key stakeholders including impacted communities
- co-develop and co-produce evidence to fill the identified gap with the involvement of impacted populations and communities (Vargas et al, 2022)
- deliver a public engagement and communications strategy that embeds key stakeholders within the design and maximises the intended policy outcomes
- provide evidence that can help support collaborative solutions to drive urgent climate action.

The award will be held by a lead applicant from an eligible administering institution, on behalf of a team of coapplicants.

At the time of submission the lead applicant:

- must be able to demonstrate that they have a permanent, open-ended, or long-term rolling contract for the duration of the award
- must be able to contribute at least 20% of their time to this award
- must be based at an eligible administering organisation that can sign up to Wellcome's grant conditions
- can only be a lead applicant on one application to this scheme. Lead applicants can be included as a coapplicant on one other application, but they must be able to demonstrate that they have sufficient capacity for both projects if funded.

- Can be based anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China).
- Must be able to contribute at least 20% of their time to this project.
- Must be essential for delivery of the proposed project and provide added value to the team. For example designing the research, writing the application, providing training, knowledge brokering or managing the programme.
- Must have a guarantee of workspace from their organisation for the duration of the award.
- Must be based at an eligible organisation that can sign up to Wellcome's grant conditions.
- Must include in-country policy actors and/or practitioners, civil servants, private sector, civil society actors.
- Do not need to have a permanent, open-ended, or long-term rolling contract at their organisation.
- Can be at any career stage (please clearly outline the career stage of all coapplicants in the application). We would encourage research teams to consist of at least 1 early-career stage researcher.
- Coapplicants can be listed on a maximum of two applications only.

Your application can have a maximum of 7 coapplicants. Lead applicants should ensure that each coapplicant provides added value to the team in terms of the expertise and experience outlined in the criteria.

The team

Team members (coapplicants, staff, consultants) must combine researchers from different disciplines, policymakers, community stakeholder representatives and/or engagement experts. We are looking for transdisciplinary teams that can demonstrate strong health as well as climate expertise (particularly climate and meteorological science).

Additional expertise could span across:

-
- private sector
 - public engagement
 - media or communications.

Your team should be able to demonstrate:

- a history of collaborating together and successfully delivering projects among members of the team
- a strong record of working in climate change and health research
- a strong record of working with communities most affected by climate change
- a strong record of working in collaboration with policymakers or decision makers involved in delivering climate solutions
- experience designing and planning research projects with major policy implications
- experience designing and delivering communications and/or public engagement activities, co-produced with impacted communities and key stakeholders with clear policy impact.

We will be looking across the team (including lead applicant and coapplicants) for the criteria identified on this page.

Administering organisations

The lead applicant must be based at an eligible administering organisation that can sign up to Wellcome's grant conditions (can be based in any country apart from mainland China). The project must have a lead applicant based in all countries where the research activities are taking place.

Eligible administering organisations for the proposal can be:

- higher education institutions
- research institutes

One organisation can submit multiple different applications.

What's expected of the administering organisation:

- Any eligible organisation must sign up to Wellcome's grant conditions and grant funding policies.
- We expect organisations based in the UK to meet the responsibilities required by the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers [PDF] for institutions, managers and researchers. Any organisation with Wellcome funding that is based outside the UK is expected, at a minimum, to follow the principles of this Concordat.

We also expect your administering organisation to:

- give you, and any staff employed on the grant, at least 10 days a year (pro rata if part-time) to undertake training and continuing professional development (CPD) in line with the Concordat. This should include the responsible conduct of research, research leadership, people management, diversity and inclusion, and the promotion of a healthy research culture
- provide a system of onboarding, embedding and planning for you when you start the award
- provide you with the status and benefits of other staff of similar seniority
- if your administering organisation is a core-funded research organisation, this award should not replace or lead to a reduction in existing or planned core support.

Time spent away from research and part-time working

You can apply if you've been away from research (for example, a career break, maternity leave or long-term sick leave). We'll allow for this when we consider your application. Lead and coapplicants can be part-time. There is no formal minimum, but part-time working needs to be compatible with delivering the proposal successfully.

the research or other activities.

This should focus on:

- **Who defines and does the research:** we expect our partners to demonstrate to us that their research community has substantive input from, and engagement with, the primary end users or subjects of their research, be they patients, participants or policymakers.
- **How the research is done:** we expect our partners to demonstrate to us that their research agenda and the design and conduct of their research substantively engages with the needs and values of the people and communities who are participating in, or are the subject of, their research.
- **Who benefits from the research:** Wellcome already has a commitment to focusing on those most affected by our health challenges. Accordingly, we expect our research partners to be able to demonstrate within their research and activity plans that their outputs will be made meaningfully accessible and used by those who most need it and, if appropriate, those who participated in the research.

Who can't apply

You cannot apply if you intend to carry out activities that involve the transfer of grant funds into mainland China.

Other Wellcome awards

- An early-career researcher can be a lead applicant on one Wellcome award and a coapplicant on one other Wellcome award, or a coapplicant on two Wellcome awards.
- A mid-career researcher can be a lead applicant on one Wellcome award and a coapplicant on two other Wellcome awards, or a coapplicant on three Wellcome awards.
- An established researcher can be:



- for a team, and a co-applicant on three other Wellcome awards; or
- a coapplicant on four Wellcome awards.

The awards should be for different research projects, with no overlap in work packages.

Resubmissions

For teams that were shortlisted in the 2023 Climate Impacts Awards, we will only accept resubmissions if there are significant amendments to the application based on the feedback provided.

About your proposal

What is in scope and full application assessment criteria



What we offer

Funding level, duration of award, costs and research expenses



staff



continuing professional development and training



materials and consumables



animals



equipment



access charges



overheads



fieldwork expenses	+
inflation allowance	+
open access charges	+
clinical research costs	+
public engagement and patient involvement costs	+
contract research organisations	+
other costs	+

How to apply

Stages of application [+](#)

[Start your application](#)

Log in to our online grants system. You can save your application and return to it any time.

Disabled applicants

If you are disabled or have a long-term health condition, we can support you with the application process.

Key dates

You must submit your application by 17:00 BST on the deadline day. We don't

5 February 2024, 09:00 UTC

Webinar

Applying to the Climate Impacts Awards

[Register](#)

12 February 2024, 12:00 UTC

Webinar

Making the health effects of climate change visible

[Register](#)

3 April 2024

Full application deadline

July 2024

Final funding decisions

Contact us

Questions on eligibility, what we offer and applications

If you have a question about eligibility, what we offer or about completing the application form using Wellcome Funding, send our funding information advisers a message.

Remit questions

If you have a question about your proposal, contact us at: climateimpacts@wellcome.org

We do not answer questions on the scope or competitiveness of proposals.

Useful documents



Search 

Grant funding

[Find a funding opportunity](#)

[Guidance](#)

[Develop your research career](#)

[Funded people and projects](#)

What we do

[Mental health](#)

[Infectious disease](#)

[Climate and health](#)

[Discovery research](#)

[All our work](#)

Who we are

[Jobs](#)

[Our strategy](#)

[Teams](#)

[Our history](#)

[How we are funded](#)

[Contact us](#)

News and reports

[All news](#)

[Media office](#)

[Reports](#)

[Podcast](#)



Search 

[Wellcome Funding](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Modern slavery statement](#) | [Privacy and terms](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Contact Us](#)

